



NASA Policy Directive

NPD 8010.3A

Effective Date: June 14, 2004

Expiration Date: June 14, 2009

COMPLIANCE IS MANDATORY[Printable Format \(PDF\)](#)

Subject: Notification of Intent to Decommission or Terminate Operating Space Systems and Terminate Missions

Responsible Office: Science Mission Directorate

1. POLICY

This NPD establishes policy for notification of intent to decommission or terminate operating space systems and terminate missions. When it is determined that an operating space system has reached the end of its intended useful life, or a mission has reached the end of its usefulness, or the space system should be decommissioned or terminated for any other reason, or the mission should be terminated for any other reason, adequate notification will be given to assure proper coordination with all concerned parties internal and external to NASA.

2. APPLICABILITY

- a. This NPD applies to NASA Headquarters and NASA Centers, including Component Facilities.
- b. Compliance with requirements for limiting orbital debris generation, and the production of, and adherence to, an end of mission plan for safe disposal, are applicable to projects that completed Preliminary Design Review (PDR) on or after April 5, 1993. Projects that completed PDR before April 5, 1993, are only subject to orbital debris provisions as applicable under NPD 8710.3B.

3. AUTHORITY

42. U.S.C. 2473(c)(1), Section 203(c)(1) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (the "Space Act"), as amended.

4. REFERENCES

- a. NPD 8710.3B NASA Policy for Limiting Orbital Debris Generation.
- b. NSS 1740.14 Guidelines and Assessment Procedures for Limiting Orbital Debris.
- c. NPD 1440.6G NASA Records Management.
- d. NPR 1441.1D NASA Records Retention Schedules.

5. RESPONSIBILITY

a. The Associate Administrator for the Enterprise with management responsibility for each mission and operating space system is responsible for implementation of this policy. The following are the responsibilities of the managing Enterprise Associate Administrator:

(1) Contact participating Enterprises, functional offices, and affected user communities to communicate the rationale for planned mission termination and/or decommissioning or termination of operating space systems, and to determine if they have any basis or reason for continuing the operation of the mission and/or operating space systems.

(2) Prepare and forward to the Administrator a notification of intent to terminate a mission and/or decommission or terminate operation of a space system. This notification should be forwarded sufficiently in advance to communicate the declaration of intent and begin the coordination process prior to shutdown, but in no case less than 90 calendar days before the planned shutdown. This notification should provide the rationale for and implications of the action

proposed. The notification should also describe the end of mission plan for safe disposal, and past coordination with all interested parties and the public, or include a plan for assuring such coordination prior to shutdown.

(3) Distribute copies of the notification to involved Headquarters offices and NASA Centers, including the Offices of Space Flight, General Counsel, Safety and Mission Assurance, External Relations, Legislative Affairs, Public Affairs, Security Management and Safeguards, and the NASA Chief Financial Officer/Comptroller.

(4) Obtain concurrence from Safety and Mission Assurance that the mission termination plan complies with approved safety standards at the time of launch.

(5) For operating space systems that have international participation covered by an international agreement with NASA under the Space Act, the managing Enterprise Associate Administrator will inform the Office of External Relations of a decision to terminate a mission and/or decommission or terminate a space system in a time frame that is consistent with the terms and conditions defined in the agreement with the international partner.

b. The NASA Center responsible for operation of the mission and/or space system shall also have the following termination responsibilities:

(1) Coordinate with the managing Enterprise to physically shut down the mission and/or space system on the planned shutdown date.

(2) Notify project management to coordinate with the Center Records Manager for proper disposition of mission/space system records in accordance with NPR 1441.1D, NASA Records Retention Schedules.

6. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

None.

7. MEASUREMENTS

None.

8. CANCELLATION

NPD 8010.3, June 30, 1999.

/s/ Sean O'Keefe
Administrator

ATTACHMENT A: (TEXT)

None.

(URL for Graphic)

None.

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